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# Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04
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OES-06 L-03 SAJ-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /080 W
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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2944
INFO ALL EC CAPS 3078
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS PLOS EC
SUBJECT: EC ATTITUDE TOWARD FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS WITH USSR

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1065

1. THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON FEBRUARY 4 TOOK UP THE EC RESPONSE TO THE SOVIET OFFER TO NEGOTIATE A FISHERY AGREEMENT WITH THE UK REPRESENTING THE EC MEMBER STATES, AS REPORTED REFTEL. HOWEVER, THE SUBJECT WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO BE REFERRED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 8 FOR FINAL RESOLUTION.

2. THE FORMAL POSITION OF THE EC COMMISSION WAS EXPLICITLY STATED BY ITS PRESS SPOKESMAN ON FEBRUARY 3, ACCORDING TO AGENCE EUROPE PRESS BULLETIN, AS FOLLOWS: "THE COMMISSION WELCOMES THE
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SOVIET UNION'S MOVE WITH INTEREST.... IT IS THE COMMISSION'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CARRY OUT THESE NEGOTIATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE EC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF THE TREATY AND COUNCIL DECISIONS." EMILE NOEL, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMISSION, CONFIDED TO THE MISSION THAT WHILE THE COMMISSION MUST PUBLICLY PUT ITS POSITION IN THIS MANNER, IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT A COMPROMISE ARRANGE-MENT WHEREBY THE USSR WOULD NEGOTIATE WITH "THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY",

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WHOSE DELEGATION WOULD BE MADE UP OF BOTH THE PRESIDENCY COUNTRY (THE UK UNTIL JULY 1977 AND THEN BELGIUM) AND THE COMMISSION. WHILE THE BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE COULD OPEN THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE COMMISSION WOULD EXPECT THAT ITS REPRESENTATIVE (PROBABLY EAMON GALLAGHER) WOULD PLAY THE PRIMARY ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. NOEL STATED THAT THE COMMISSION COULD NOT ACCEPT THAT SOVIET FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE CONDUCTED ONLY WITH THE UK AS PRESIDENCY COUNTRY ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY EVEN IF A COMMISSION OFFICIAL WERE MADE A MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION SIMILAR TO THE ARRANGEMENTS AT THE HELSINKI CSCE CONFERENCE. NOR WILL THE COMMISSION ACCEPT AN OBSERVER ROLE. ALTHOUGH THE MEMBER STATES ARE DIVIDED, NOEL WAS REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD SUPPORT THE COMMISSION'S POSITION THAT ONLY A COUNCIL/COMMISSION "TANDEM" SHOULD REPRESENT THE EC IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE USSR.

3. COMMENT: WHILE NOEL'S SUGGESTED COMPROMISE MAY BE APPROVED BY THE EC COUNCIL, IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT IT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE USSR. IN SUCH A CASE, THERE MAY BE CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE ON THE COMMISSION BY SOME MEMBER STATES TO MAKE FURTHER COMPROMISES IN ORDER TO PERMIT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE USSR TO TAKE PLACE. HINTON

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# Message Attributes

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